



SWARC NEWS

On 29 Feb 2020 our beloved President K4MWG Mike (Gator) held a board meeting and here are the notes from that meeting.

SWARC 29 FEB 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Mike Gaither-K4MWG. Those in attendance were: KK4BK-Brian Knox, K7RLH-Richard Hall, WA4TCJ-Al Crawford and KJ4AEO-Christine Fernandini.

The board discussed upcoming events that affect club members:

- For starters, the American Legion is planning a work day sometime in April and we are invited to participate in cleaning up/sprucing up the entire grounds since we basically pay no rent for use of the radio room. Stay tuned for the exact date, which will be announced.
- RARSfest is April 11th and SWARC has two tables purchased to use for selling radio gear, raffle tickets, memberships, etc. Donated equipment that we have will be priced for sale at the event. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAN THE TABLES!**
- We need to push raffle ticket sales; discussion among those present seems to favor only one raffle per year perhaps associated with the annual Field Day event.
- A committee will be formed soon to seek nominations for officers for the election that will be held in June.

- The 50-50 raffle will be reinstituted with tickets at \$1.00 each.
- We also discussed the possibility of having a 'Special Event' station setup for the 4th of July—stay tuned for info as it develops

The meeting that adjourned at 2:05 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

***As we all know by now the RARS Fest has
been cancelled***

Meeting Notes

SWARC 2 MAR 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Mike Gaither, K4MWG.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bernie Jones, N4BAJ. Introductions were made around the room; there were about 30 folks present, with two or more guests.

The meeting followed the potluck-style meal. Thanks to all who provided main dishes, salads, appetizers, desserts, etc. We had plenty of variety for all to choose from.

Treasurer Christine Fernandini, KJ4AEO, provided a treasurer's report stating that we have \$1,553.34 in the bank account as of the meeting.

President Mike reminded everyone that we have new raffle tickets for members to sell; they will be for two \$250.00 Visa gift cards, which hopefully

will make the tickets more attractive to a broader audience. We also reinstituted the 50-50 raffle with tickets sold for \$1.00 each; the winner took home \$30.00 and the same amount went into the treasury.

Al Crawford, WA4TCJ, stated that he is taking orders for more club nametags and this meeting is the cutoff date as he will be going to Virginia to collect them rather than pay shipping.

Public Service events have been moved from the previous web site to the RARS web site since the previous event scheduler became a silent key in late December. Both Richard Hall, K7RLH, and Dave Krum, NW3U discussed upcoming events that may still have requirements for ham radio operators.

President Mike, K4MWG, asked for volunteers to head up the nominating committee for elections that will be held in June. Dave Yow, K4MSE volunteered to chair and Dave Krum, NW3U, agreed to assist with this task.

Mike Callam, KD4MC, announced that discussions are underway for the combined SWARC, JARS, and RARS group picnic. Mike is hoping to reserve the Lake Benson Pavilion and he will advise us when the date has been finalized and the venue has been scheduled.

Our program this evening was: “How Did You Accept the Challenge?” that VP Brian Knox, KK4BK, had thrown out to have us try something new in ham radio for 2020. Members Ron Cooney, K4AAA, Richard Hall, K7RLH, Bernie Jones, N4BAJ, and Brian, KK4BK all presented something they had tried new for 2020.

- Ron: Satellite Radio Antenna and Controller—he was motivated to start tracking satellites by someone who had a setup down near the lake during Summer Field Day 2019. He described the kit that he built and some of the software issues that he is still experiencing before actually being able to track satellites using the radio.
- Richard: His talk was ‘Lessons Learned’ on trying to improve on the basic 80m and 40m NVIS antenna developed by the military many decades ago. He explained some of his challenges building coils and showed pictures of what needs to be done to repair them and hopefully reduce some of the incipient noise that he heard when connected to this antenna. Richard

definitely said that he would enlist help, even from his wife, in repairing his mistakes that were created by trying to do this project single-handedly.

- Bernie: Bernie showed us how to set up a 'Wolf River Coil' antenna mounted on a tripod; he confirmed that it can be done in 10 minutes as advertised and, furthermore, that the antenna works as intended for portable use and perhaps in situations where HOA restrictions prohibit a more permanent tower situation. This antenna, fully extended, is 102 inches tall and has coils to allow for band selection.
- Brian: His goal for 2020 was to improve his gear for mobile operation on camping trips, field day, etc. He described how he purchased a Raspberry Pi device and GPS dongle and then installed some existing logging and control software on the 'Pi' to allow him to use a small touchscreen device (Android or Apple) to facilitate logging, etc., without a keyboard, mouse, or other display. So far, he has made a total of 11 contacts, most have been confirmed by LOTW.

Congrats to all who stepped out of their comfort zone to try something new and were willing to share their results, warts and all.

All in all, it was a very entertaining meeting that adjourned at 8:20 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

South Wake Amateur Radio Club Treasurer Report February 2020

Club Addition and Reduction Activity

Additions

Dues	15.00	check# 3180	John Poplawski (WB4UFO)
Dues	30.00	check# 2605	Stanley Johnson (W4SFI)
Dues	20.00	check# 9908	Kenneth (N1VK) and Ann (W1AAN) Person
Dues	30.00	check# 8469	Travis Russell (KN4WJL)

Total

Additions 95.00

Reductions

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Total

Reductions 0.00

RBC Bank Account Activity

Balance as of 02/03/2020	1458.34		
Addition	95.00		
Reduction	0.00		

**Balance as of
03/02/2020**

1553.34

Christine Fernandini
KJ4AEO 03/02/2020

MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that it is coming up on time to pay membership dues.

\$30 for individual and \$5 for each family member.

You can bring a check or cash to the meeting Monday October 7th or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them so I can update the list. If you mail them, give me a heads up so I can mark it as pending on the roster.

Makes checks payable to South Wake ARC.

If you are going to mail it, send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

I have taken over as Membership Director from Ryan, so please direct any questions to me.

I will be developing an online form so new members can fill out the application online and mail or bring a check to a meeting.

I will be reaching out to all members here soon to make sure I have the latest contact information, addresses, etc so I can make sure the membership list reflects current information.

Thanks

David Sosnin

N4TTN

n4ttn.radio@gmail.com

David has updated the membership list and sent it out. Please check the list and make sure you are on it. If you do not see your name then you have a couple of options: 1) Pay your dues and get back on the list 2) If you have paid then fuss at David 3) David forgets that everyone is not as social as he is so if you did not receive a copy then send David an email at n4ttn.radio@gmail.com and request a copy.

Public Service

Check the RARS web site often for Public Service opportunities.

South Wake Amateur Radio Club Name Badges

If you ordered a name tag then they are in. I made arrangements to get them in for the April meeting. Of course we were not sure if the meeting would go as planned or just be cancelled. Anyway I have the name tags. If you cannot wait then contact me and I will get my hazmat suit out as long as Miss Linda approves.

AL Crawford WA4TCJ
919-552-6411
wa4tcj@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appointed Positions

President

Mike Gaither – K4MWG

Vice President

NET MANAGER

Joe - KM4YTF

Special Events Director

Brian Knox – KK4BK

Secretary

Rich Hall, K7RLH

Treasurer

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

Member-At-Large

Al Crawford – WA4TCJ

Member-At-Large

Charles Bruckner – KG4MXV

Member-At-Large

Dan Gilbertson

Membership Chair

David Sossin – N4TTN

Gino Fernandini –K14YXO

Public Service Director

David Krum – NW3U

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network

www.ncprn.net

GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com

QRZ

www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO

www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS

www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS

www.jars.net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC

www.southwakearc.com

Vice President Notes

VP Challenge. Do something new with HAM radio. Doesn't have to be hard or expensive, just try something not usual to your ham related operations. Suggestions: Switch from Phone to CW. CW to Digital, VHF FM to VHF SSB or Repeater to Simplex. The ARRL has Monday thru Friday transmissions in Digital, Voice and CW that can help you get established in one of those platforms. Check out the QST magazine or the ARRL website, search W1AW, for transmission times.

The Spring Raffle is two, \$250 Gift Cards enabling you to buy what you want. See K4MWG or KK4BK for tickets. Others will be recruited to sales duties soon.

Good Read: <https://www.onallbands.com/beyond-your-local-repeater-15-things-to-do-with-a-technician-license/>

There are events going on all the time: you got Islands on the Air (IOTA), and then there is working Light Houses, don't forget all the special events there is something new each week. Here is one for you Mark, N4MQU is always setting up and working from different locations or likes to run different nets as the net control. See how many times you can work Mark in his different rolls during the week. If nothing else take your radio to the backyard and work some stations. Just have fun.

ATTENTION

Our club is like other clubs we have a mixture of memberships. We have everything from young pre-teen members to those like myself who were active during the Civil War. Anyway the point I am trying to make is us younger guys need to be checking in on our older members to see if they could use any help. I know several have reached out to me and I do appreciate it. I want to thank Brian, KK4BK Mike, K4MWG David, KN4OFB Thomas, WW4TLB. These are just a few who have reached out to me on a weekly basis and offered help so I thank you all but please don't forget the others. I know they don't like to admit it but just to name a few of our older members there is Al, WA4TCJ Bernie, N4BAJ Richard, K7RLH (who is also as old as I am) The point is please check in on the older or disabled members of the club and see if you can help and do not necessarily take no for an answer. Sometimes the no is because we do not want to bother someone with such a small task or just do not feel right imposing on someone.